

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 09, 2023

**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Young, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Andrus, Skaug, Alfieri, Allgood, Crane(12), Gannon, Green

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Crane (13)** called the meeting to order at 8:33 A.M.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:** **Chairman Crane (13)** asked unanimous consent to remove **RS 30601** from the agenda. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**RS 30602:** **Rep. Alfieri** presented **RS 30602**, proposed legislation allowing for the election of the State Board of Education. Rep. Alfieri stated **RS 30602** also allows for a petition in lieu of the \$500 filing fee.

**Chairman Crane (13)** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Young**.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 30602**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 30567:** **Rep. Crane (12)** presented **RS 30567**, proposed legislation closing a legal loophole to give law enforcement and prosecutors the necessary changes to existing Idaho Code to prosecute human sex trafficking.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 30567** with the following changes: On Page 2, Line 22, after "shall" insert, "deliver a report to the germane committees of the Idaho Legislature". On Page 2, Line 5, after "parts" insert "of another person". On Page 2, Line 31, remove "on and after July 1, 2023" and replace with "thirty days following signature of the Governor". **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Vice Chairman Young** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Crane (13)**.

**RS 30465:** **Rep. Hill** presented **RS 30465**, proposed legislation prohibiting Idaho entities from entering into certain contracts with companies owned or operated by the People's Republic of China.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 30465**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 221:** **Rep. Necochea** presented **H 221**, legislation prohibiting the Executive branch and county commissioners from disseminating electioneering messages via the State Tax Commission and property tax correspondence.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to send **H 221** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Necochea** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**SJR 101aa:** **Sen. Okuniewicz** presented **SJR 101AA**, a Joint Resolution requiring signatures from 6% of registered voters from every legislative district in Idaho in order to put an initiative on a ballot. If passed by the Legislature, the Joint Resolution will be placed on the November 2024 General Election ballot.

**Matthew Dane; Hollie Conde**, Conservation Voters for Idaho; **Scott Tate; Elizabeth Noonan; Dr. Graham Wetherley; Kayla Dodson; Yvonne Sandmire; Tracy Olson; Bonnie Shuster; Jonathan Oppenheimer**, Idaho Conservation League; **Bron Roberts; Jody Brostrom; Kathy Clees; Melanie Edwards; Sheri Hughes; Karen Hansen** and **Nicholas Miller** testified in opposition of **SJR 101aa**, stating this legislation is taking away the voice of the people by making it impossible to gather enough signatures to put a referendum or initiative on the ballot.

**Luke Mayville**, Reclaim Idaho, testified in opposition of **SJR 101aa**, stating the referendum process is different from the initiative process and it's important to understand the differences. Mr. Mayville remarked this legislation eliminates the citizen's right to the referendum process and it's wrong to ask citizens to give up their rights. Mr. Mayville reminded committee members of the Idaho Supreme Court's ruling regarding the prior changes the Legislature attempted to make to the initiative process. Responding to questions from the committee, Mr. Mayville stated he believes if **SJR 101aa** is put on the ballot, it will be defeated by a large margin in all 44 counties.

**Tina Hilding** testified in opposition of **SJR 101aa**, stating this legislation is taking away the voice of the people by making it impossible to gather enough signatures to put a referendum or initiative on the ballot.

**Chairman Crane (13)** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Young**.

**Kenneth Burchell** testified in opposition of **SJR 101aa**, stating this legislation is taking away the voice of the people by making it impossible to gather enough signatures to put a referendum or initiative on the ballot and citizens from rural areas are not being deprived from the initiative process.

**Vice Chairman Young** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Crane (13)**.

**Louise Brannon** and **Heather Stout**, testified in opposition of **SR 101aa**, stating this legislation is taking away the voice of the people by making it impossible to gather enough signatures to put a referendum or initiative on the ballot and the existing initiative requirements are extremely difficult.

**Sen. Okuniewicz** presented closing testimony on **SJR101aa** stating, the US Constitution reigns supreme, and as a result, the state does not have the authority to take the freedoms of speech or religion away from citizens. Sen. Okuniewicz clarified the referendum/initiative process does not exist in a majority of states and the current Attorney General and the prior Attorney General reviewed this resolution and verified it is likely to withstand legal challenges.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Holtzclaw** made a motion to **HOLD SJR 101aa** subject to the call of the chair. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 A.M.

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Representative Crane (13)  
Chair

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Lisa Hendricks  
Secretary